demand centres by (i) creation of oil Storage capacity at strategic locations; (ii) establishing packaging stations across the country to pack edible oil; (iii) developing economical transport system to move oilseeds and oil from surplus to deficit zones. As part of this plan NDDB has created oil storage capacity of 2.31 lakh tonnes and oil packaging capacity of 2.53 lakh tonnes per annum. The grid related infrastructure would continue to develop over the years.

Appointmtnt of operating Consultants to study State Farms Corporation of India

2113. MISS SAROJ KHAPARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently appointed operating Consultants for undertaking a diagnostic study of State Farms Corporaton of India;

(b) if so, what were the recommendations of the consultants regarding the State Farms Corporation of India;

(c) whether Government have since implemented all those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Operating Consultants have been appointed under the National Seeds Project (NSP III) for undertaking a diagnostic study of the State Farms Corporation of India. The major recommendations of the consultants relate to the following:—

(i) Identification and achievement of defined corporate objectives;

(ii) Strengthening of organisational structure with appropriate and skilled manpower.

(iii) Identification and development of training needs and policy.

(iv) Development of appropriate short and long-term production, sales and marketing strategies.

(v) Development of improved systems of budgeting, accounting and financial management.

(vi) Provision of performance appraisal system and operational reviews.

(c) and (d) Recommendations of the Operating Consultants wich require action on the part of Government relate to provision of financial assistance which is being madt.

Area under cotton cultivation

2114. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest area under cotton cultivation in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its break-up State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cotton yield per hectare is lowest in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons to the low yield; and

(e) steps being taken to improve the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total area under cotton cultivation in the country during 1992-93 is estimated at 75.43 lakh hectares. Its

State-wise break-up is as follows:—

	(lakh hectares)
Andhra Pradesh	8.00
Gujarat	11.5
Haryana	5.31
Karnataka	6.14
Madhya Pradesh	4.80
Maharashtra	24.80
Punjab	6.90
Rajasthan	4.90
Tamilnadu	2.91
Others	0.44
TOTAL :	75.25

(c) India has the lowest yield per hectare of cotton amongst the major producing countries of the world.

(d) The main reasons for low cotton yield per hectare in India are dependence of the crop on rains, high incidence of pests and diseases, inadequate use of quality seeds of improved varieties by farmers and lack of awareness amongst farmers about advanced technology.

(e) Government of India have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development in important cotton growing States to increase its production through improvement in productivity. Financial assistance is provided for supply of critical inputs such as seeds, pesticides, equipments etc. and organising demonstrations of improved technology and farmers training.

National Policy on plant genetic resources

2115. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has recently considered the need for developing a national policy on plant genetic resources (PGR);

(b) whether the Institute has submitted its recommendations to the Government, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have evolved any national policy on PGR, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the details of research facilities available in the country and how Government have been making use of them;

(e) whether it is a fact that most of the good scientists have been moving from research organisations to multi-national companies and valuable research material gets out of the Research Centres to private agencies if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what incentives and encouragements Government have given or propose to give to Indian Scientists to discourage them from joining other organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Free exchange of germplasm for research purposes particularly of released varieties of crop plans is being practiced

(d) Research facilities for the scientists are avgailable at 45 Central Institutes, 30 National Research Centres 9 Project Directorates, 4 National Bureaux, 77 All India Coordinated Agricultural Projects, 27 State Agricultural Universities and one Central Agricultural University. These facilities are being made use of for undertaking basic and applied research